

**BC LACROSSE ASSOCIATION  
2025 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE  
BCLA CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

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*Proposed by Doug Wright, BCLOG Chair*

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To alter all references in the BC Lacrosse Operating Policy as follows:

**Background:** Some references within the Operating Policy of the BCLA and British Columbia Lacrosse Officials Group reference the BC Lacrosse Officials Technical Support Group but then references that group as the BC Lacrosse Officials Group. For ease of reference we should ensure this is uniform. As a housekeeping I would amend as follows:

To confirm and alter any and all references in the BC Lacrosse Operating Policy to the British Columbia Officials Group, British Columbia Officials Technical Group, British Columbia Officials Technical Support Group, British Columbia Lacrosse Officials Group, British Columbia Lacrosse Officials Technical Group, British Columbia Lacrosse Officials Technical Support Group to be the **British Columbia Lacrosse Officials Group ("BCLOG")**.

**Rationale:** It is felt that BCLOTSG is unnecessarily wordy and overly complicated. This motion is to both simplify and ensure consistency throughout policy.

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*Proposed by Gerry Van Beek, BCLA President*

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**BY-LAW NUMBER I: DEFINITIONS 5– currently reads:**

5. Executive – Refers to the ~~Executive of the British Columbia Lacrosse Association.~~

**Amend BY-LAW NUMBER I: DEFINITIONS 5 – that would read:**

5. Executive – Refers to the **BCLA group comprising of President, Vice President Administration and Finance, Secretary, and Executive Director.**

**Rationale:** Defining what is the Executive of the BCLA, and differential between the Executive and the Board of Directors.

The Definition additions proposed do not change authority or any voting processes. These changes are meant for clarity purposes.

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*Proposed by Gerry Van Beek, BCLA President*

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**BY-LAW NUMBER I: DEFINITIONS 10 and 11– currently read:**

10. Minors – ~~are~~ players and teams of players in U17 and younger age groups, Field Lacrosse players and teams of players in ~~Junior-U19~~ and younger divisions.
11. Minor Divisions – U17 and younger age groups; ~~Junior-U19~~ and younger divisions ~~in Field Lacrosse~~.

**Amend BY-LAW NUMBER I: DEFINITIONS 10 and 11 – that would read:**

10. Minors – **Box Lacrosse** players and teams of players in U17 and younger age groups, Field Lacrosse players and teams of players in **U18** and younger divisions.
11. Minor Divisions – **Box Lacrosse** U17 and younger age groups; **Field Lacrosse U18** and younger divisions.

**Rationale:** Housekeeping and consistency in nomenclature reflecting current Field Lacrosse age groups.

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*Proposed by Gerry Van Beek, BCLA President*

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**Add NEW Definitions to BY-LAW NUMBER I: DEFINITIONS 17, 18, 19, & 20 that would read:**

**Add Definitions for “Members”, “Individual Registrants”, “Officers” and “Board or Board of Directors”**

**17. Members:**

**Minor Box Lacrosse Associations (voting)**  
**Youth Field Lacrosse Associations (voting)**

Senior Box Lacrosse Clubs or Teams (voting)  
Senior Field Lacrosse Clubs or Teams (voting)  
Affiliate Schools/Centres (non-voting)

**18. Individual Registrants:**

Athletes  
Coaches  
Officials  
Affiliate School / Non-Association Registrants  
Directors  
Committee Volunteers/Chairs  
Directors of Club/Association Members  
Life Members  
Other Volunteers

**19. Director or Directors – Those elected to represent the Members at the BCLA Board of Directors.**

**20. Board or Board of Directors – All Officers of the BCLA and the Executive Director.**

**Rationale:**

- 17 & 18: BCLA Bylaws should distinguish between Members and Individual Registrants. Members and Individual Registrants are mentioned in BCLA's policies; however, a defining designation should exist within the bylaws. The distinction clarifies the difference between Members, who are in a statutory relationship with BCLA, and Individual Registrants, who are in a contractual relationship with BCLA. This distinction also assists with consistency with understanding the references to different groups in documents.
- 19 & 20. BCLA has a Board of Directors, not a Board of Officers. However Bylaw VI through IX give duties and references to Officer(s). These positions are better described as Director(s). This definition change will change all references in Bylaw and Policies from Officer(s) to Director(s) where appropriate. The nomenclature used throughout BCLA documents create confusion and needs clarity.

The Definition additions proposed do not change authority or any voting processes. These changes are meant for clarity purposes.

**Renumber items in list to keep alphabetical order.**

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***Proposed by Gerry Van Beek, BCLA President***

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**BY-LAW NUMBER V: MEETINGS 1 – currently reads:**

1. The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held ~~during the month of October in each and every year; such~~ date ~~to be~~ set by the Executive, and in the event of their failure to act, by the President.

**Amend BY-LAW NUMBER V: MEETINGS 1 – that would read:**

1. The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held **prior to November 30<sup>th</sup> yearly. The** date set by the Executive, and in the event of their failure to act, by the President.

**Rationale:** The nature of BCLA's lacrosse event schedule may at times (like 2024) impossible to provide members with timely data such as audited financial statements. BCLA's fiscal year ends on August 31<sup>st</sup> yearly.

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***Proposed by Gerry Van Beek, BCLA President***

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**BY-LAW NUMBER V: MEETINGS 5 – currently reads:**

5. **Voting** -- at all Annual and Special meetings of the Association, members in good standing will have the following voting rights:
- (a) ~~District lacrosse associations (box and field) may seat one accredited delegate with one vote for every one hundred Minor players, or portion thereof, registered in the previous playing season; plus one~~

~~accredited delegate with one vote for every Senior team (box and field) registered in the previous playing season.~~

- (b) ~~Each accredited delegate of the BCLOTSG, BCLVLA, and the BCLCG Technical Support Groups, as defined in By-Law X, Section 4(g), By-Law X, Section 6(c), and By-Law X, Section 5(b) shall have one vote.~~
- (c) ~~Each elected or appointed member of a Directorate (Senior, Minor, Recreation and Field) as described in By-Law X, Section 1(b), Section 2(b), Section 3(b), Section 4(a) and the eight (8) Zone Directors as appointed and/or elected by the Minor Directorate, shall have one (1) vote each.~~
- (d) All other members in good standing, other than Associate Members and Affiliate Members, will have one vote each.
- (e) Individuals holding a vote must attend the BC Lacrosse Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) and/or Special Sessions in person. ~~There will be no electronic communication or electronic votes during the BCLA's AGM and/or Special Sessions.~~

**Amend BY-LAW NUMBER V: MEETING 5. VOTING that would read:**

- 5. **Voting** -- at all Annual and Special meetings of the Association, members in good standing will have the following voting rights:
  - (a) **All Minor Box and Field Associations active in previous playing season, may seat one accredited delegate with one vote each.**
  - (b) **All Senior Box and Field Teams active in the previous playing season, may seat one accredited delegate with one vote each**
  - (c) All ~~other~~ members in good standing, other than Associate Members and Affiliate Members, will have one vote each.
  - (d) Individuals holding a vote must attend the BC Lacrosse Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) and/or Special Sessions **in person.**

**Rationale:**

- The BCLA received advice that our present voting section violates the Societies Act (Division 3 Voting, Right to vote, 84 (2)A voting member of a society has only one vote. BCLA members cannot receive extra votes based on size of their association.
- Each Senior Team is a separate member of the BCLA.
- Directorates and Technical groups are not members and should not have member voting rights.
- In modern society it is not workable to not use electronic communications. The banning electronic version of voting conflicts with Bylaw V-4.

Renumber as necessary.

Affects all voting throughout the BCLA Bylaws and Operating Policies once the updated Bylaws are registered with the BC Societies.

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***Proposed by Doug Wright, BCLOG Chair***

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**BY-LAW NUMBER V: MEETING 5. VOTING (b) and (c) – currently reads:**

- 5. **Voting** -- at all Annual and Special meetings of the Association, members in good standing will have the following voting rights:
  - (b) Each accredited delegate of the BCLOTSG, BCLVLA, and the BCLCG Technical Support Groups, as defined in By-Law X, Section 4(g), By-Law ~~X~~, Section 6(c), and By-Law X, Section 5(b) shall have one vote.
  - (c) Each elected or appointed member of a Directorate (Senior, Minor, Recreation and Field) as described in By-Law ~~X~~, Section 1(b), Section 2(b), Section 3(b), Section 4(a) and the eight (8) Zone Directors as appointed and/or elected by the Minor Directorate, shall have one (1) vote each.

**Amend BY-LAW NUMBER V: MEETING 5. VOTING (b) and (c) that would read:**

- 5. **Voting** -- at all Annual and Special meetings of the Association, members in good standing will have the following voting rights:

- (b) Each accredited delegate of the BCLOTSG, BCLVLA, and the BCLCG Technical Support Groups, as defined in By-Law X, Section 4(g), By-Law **XI**, Section 6(c), and By-Law X, Section 5(b) shall have one vote.
- (c) Each elected or appointed member of a Directorate (Senior, Minor, Recreation and Field) as described in By-Law **XI**, Section 1(b), Section 2(b), Section 3(b), Section 4(a) and the eight (8) Zone Directors as appointed and/or elected by the Minor Directorate, shall have one (1) vote each.

**Rationale:** Housekeeping – the reference in this section is the incorrect By-Law. It should read XI not X.

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*Proposed by Doug Wright, BCLOG Chair*

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**BY-LAW NUMBER V: MEETING 5. VOTING (e) – currently reads:**

- 5. **Voting** -- at all Annual and Special meetings of the Association, members in good standing will have the following voting rights:
  - (e) Individuals holding a vote must attend the BC Lacrosse Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) and/or Special Sessions in person. There will be no electronic communication or electronic votes during the BCLA's AGM and/or Special Sessions.

**Amend BY-LAW NUMBER V: MEETING 5. VOTING (e) and ADD (f) that would read:**

- 5. **Voting** -- at all Annual and Special meetings of the Association, members in good standing will have the following voting rights:
  - (e) Individuals holding a vote must attend the BC Lacrosse Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) and/or **Directorate (e.g. Minor, Senior, or Field)** Special Sessions in person. There will be no electronic communication or electronic votes during the BCLA's AGM and/or **Directorate** Special Sessions.
  - (f) Individuals holding a vote may attend Special Sessions of the Officials or Coaches Groups in person or electronically (e.g. Zoom) as determined by the respective executive of the group in question. If arranged for by the executive of these groups, electronic communication and votes may take place at these Special Sessions.**

**Rationale:** To encourage more participation in these group's special sessions we are seeking to have the option for a hybrid in person and online special session.

Additionally, given that most of our members must travel to and attend these sessions at their own expense, there is a significant inequity for members that reside outside of the geographical region of where the meeting is being held. Providing an electronic option will allow participation from members in outlying regions.

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*Proposed by Gerry Van Beek, BCLA President*

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**BY-LAW NUMBER VI: OFFICERS 5 – currently reads:**

- 5. Terms of office for the Executive members will start on ~~November~~ 1<sup>st</sup> following the election and expire on ~~October 31<sup>st</sup> at the end~~ of the position's two-year or one-year term.

**Amend BY-LAW NUMBER VI: OFFICERS 5 that would read:**

- 5. Terms of office for the Executive members will start on **December** 1<sup>st</sup> following the election and expire on **November 30th** of the position's two-year or one-year term.

**Rationale:** Match the change to the Annual Meeting date.

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*Proposed by Gerry Van Beek, BCLA President*

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**Add NEW BY-LAW NUMBER VI: OFFICERS 7**

- 7. Each Director shall serve no more than 4 terms, consecutive or otherwise.**

**Rationale:** Turnover and a solid succession plan at the board level is imperative to a healthy organization.

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*Proposed by Gerry Van Beek, BCLA President*

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**Add NEW BY-LAW NUMBER VI: OFFICERS 8**

- 8. In order to be qualified as a director, an individual must:**
- a. be at the time of their election a resident of the Province of British Columbia, being a minimum period of six months immediately preceding the election;
  - b. be at least 18 years of age;
  - c. within 30 days of election or appointment, must have a Vulnerable Sector Check or Enhanced Police Information Check on file and completed in accordance with BC Lacrosse Association's Criminal Record Check Policy.

**Rationale:** Minimum qualifications for potential Directors.

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*Proposed by Gerry Van Beek, BCLA President*

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**Add NEW BY-LAW NUMBER VI: OFFICERS 9**

- 9. Directors must be Independent from Member Associations, meaning no Director may simultaneously sit on the BCLA Board and be an Executive Member for a Member Association, coach a team for Minor, Junior or Senior Lacrosse or hold a position on another of the BCLA's governing bodies (Officials & Coaches Group, Minor, Field or Senior Directorate).**

**Rationale:** Directors must be impartial and free of conflict of interest, ensuring that Directors do not hold simultaneous positions within other lacrosse associations, organizations, groups or directorates removes potential conflicts.

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*Proposed by Gerry Van Beek, BCLA President*

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**REMOVE BY-LAW NUMBER VIII: THE BCLA REGISTRAR that currently reads:**

~~The BCLA Registrars shall consist of a Senior Box, Minor Box, Recreation and Field Registrar—responsible to oversee the administration and filing of all player registration forms for their respective sectors and divisions of the British Columbia Lacrosse Association. Responsible to ensure that the members of the British Columbia Lacrosse Association adhere to the policies set in the British Columbia Lacrosse Association Operating Policies. The Registrars will each hold a position on the Operations Committee, and will be entitled to a vote at the British Columbia Lacrosse Association Annual General Meeting General Session. All Registrars will be appointed positions, done so by their respective directorates. The BCLA Registrars will be appointed annually at the Directorate Special Session. The BCLA Registrars, with the approval of the respective Directorate, shall appoint assistants as needed.~~

**Rationale:** The registration function is becoming more and more automated and managed by BCLA Staff. The newer registration systems make these positions within the groups redundant. BCLA Executive Director may continue contracting such individuals as needed, but this position should not be in BCLA By-Laws. Registrars should not be voting on policy or By-Laws, no more than BCLA's accountant or lawyer would vote on BCLA matters.

**Renumber By-Laws**

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*Proposed by Gerry Van Beek, BCLA President*

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**REMOVE the following Committees from BY-LAW NUMBER X: COMMITTEES:**

- *Jurisdiction Committee*
- *The Promotion Committee*
- *The Officiating-Coaching Liaison Committee*
- *The Development Committee*
- *The Operations Committee*
- *The Team BC Committee*

Sports Organizations require three (3) Committees

1. Nominating Committee – in Bylaw VI – Officers item 3 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph
2. Governance & Ethics Committee – formed yearly by BCLA Board of Directors
3. Audit & Finance Committee – formed yearly by BCLA Board of Directors

Other committees need not be in Bylaws, and their functions can be established as per Bylaw X Committees Item 1.

Do not remove present Committees (b) – Discipline Committee and (c) – Appeals Committee. Those committees are very active within the BCLA. An in-depth member consultation is needed to decide how those functions are best managed.

Do not remove present Committee (g) Legal Committee.

**Rationales** for removal of standing committees:

(a) Jurisdiction Committee

This committee has met once in anybody's memory and definitely did not meet from 2008-2013 or since 2018. That meeting was earlier in 2025, and the committee recommend it be disbanded.

(d) The Promotion Committee

This function is done and should be done by staff, not volunteers.

(e) The Officiating-Coaching Liaison Committee

There is no need for a standing committee. We have no record of this group meeting and reporting to the BLCA members. The purpose of this committee should be covered by the descriptions of the groups represented by this committee.

(f) The Development Committee

This function is done and should be done by staff, not volunteers.

(h) The Operations Committee

This committee has not met in over seven (7) years. It has no real authority and its members communication can be accomplished by communication outside of a standing committee.

(i) The Team BC Committee

Team BC is managed by staff and contractors. This was entered as a standing committee when Team BC began with 5-6 teams. It is presently 17 teams, and the present standing committee is not a workable decision making process.

**Removal of committees also removes references to these in all Bylaws and Policies.**

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*Proposed by Doug Wright, BCLOG Chair*

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**BY-LAW NUMBER XI: DIRECTORATES/TECHNICAL SUPPORT GROUPS 5 The British Columbia Lacrosse Officials Technical Support Group (BCLOTSG) (h) – currently reads:**

- (h) The voting delegates selected to attend the Association's Annual General Meeting shall be appointed by the BC Lacrosse Officials Technical Support Group Executive (consisting of the Chair, Secretary, Vice Chairs, Immediate Past Chair and Director at Large). At the Association's Annual General Meeting, officials may seat an accredited delegate for every Minor District Commission, plus accredited delegates for Senior officials as follows:
- Up to 8 delegates for the BCLOTSG Executive Committee
  - 1 delegate for each active minor zone (i.e., up to 8 delegates)
  - 2 delegates for Lower Mainland Senior
  - 1 delegate for Island Senior
  - 1 delegate for Southern Interior Senior
  - 1 delegate for Northern Interior Senior
  - 1 delegate for Island Field
  - 1 delegate for Lower Mainland Field
- All members must be in good standing.

**Amend BY-LAW NUMBER XI: DIRECTORATES/TECHNICAL SUPPORT GROUPS 5 The British Columbia Lacrosse Officials Technical Support Group (BCLOTSG) (h) that would read:**

- (h) The voting delegates selected to attend the Association's Annual General Meeting shall be appointed by the BC Lacrosse Officials Technical Support Group Executive (consisting of the Chair, Secretary, **Treasurer**, Vice Chairs, Immediate Past Chair and Director at Large). At the Association's Annual General Meeting, officials may seat an accredited delegate for every Minor District Commission, plus accredited delegates for Senior officials as follows:
- Up to 8 delegates for the BCLOTSG Executive Committee
  - 1 delegate for each active minor zone (i.e., up to 8 delegates)
  - 2 delegates for Lower Mainland Senior
  - 1 delegate for Island Senior
  - 1 delegate for Southern Interior Senior
  - 1 delegate for Northern Interior Senior
  - 1 delegate for Island Field
  - 1 delegate for Lower Mainland Field
- All members must be in good standing.

**Rationale:** This position was created in policy in 2023 and it had been intended to make it a voting position, however this section was missed which has resulted in this position not being able to vote. I am proposing this amendment to correct that oversight.

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*Proposed by Gerry Van Beek, BCLA President*

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**BY-LAW NUMBER XII: COMMISSIONS 1 – currently reads:**

1. Local associations, which are members of this Association, shall work together to form a league, leagues or district; and a Commission shall be set up to govern play within such leagues or districts.

Commissions for Senior and Junior Leagues shall be one-person commissions ~~appointed as set out in By-Law VIII, Section 2.~~

District Commissions shall be established as set out in By-Law X, Section 2(c).

**Amend BY-LAW NUMBER XII: COMMISSIONS 1 that would read:**

1. Local associations, which are members of this Association, shall work together to form a league, leagues or district; and a Commission shall be set up to govern play within such leagues or districts.

Commissions for Senior and Junior Leagues shall be one-person commissions.

District Commissions shall be established as set out in By-Law X, Section 2(c).

**Rationale:** Remove References to By-Law VIII where it has no meaning. Bylaw VIII refers to the BCLA Registrar and it has nothing to do with these two items, and it causes confusion. I was unable to determine what used to be Bylaw VIII.

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*Proposed by Gerry Van Beek, BCLA President*

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**BY-LAW NUMBER XVII: OPERATING POLICY 3 AND 4 – currently reads:**

3. A policy, to be applicable, must be approved by ~~a majority vote~~ of the members, eligible to vote as set out in these By-Laws, ~~in attendance at an Annual~~ General Meeting. Such policy once made is applicable to all teams and players under jurisdiction of the ruling body, and shall remain in effect until such a policy has been amended or rescinded by the ruling body, or unless changed by the appeal procedure outlined in ~~By-Law XI, Section 4.~~
4. A ruling by a one-man Commission, on matters which are within the authority and responsibility of said Commission, shall be as binding as if made by any other committee, Commission or Directorate having authority, and shall be subject only to the appeal procedure set out in ~~By-Law XI, Section 4.~~

**Amend BY-LAW NUMBER XVII: OPERATING POLICY 3 AND 4 that would read:**

3. A policy, to be applicable, must be approved by **an ordinary resolution** of the members, eligible to vote as set out in these By-Laws, at a General Meeting. Such policy once made is applicable to all teams and players under jurisdiction of the ruling body, and shall remain in effect until such a policy has been amended or rescinded by the ruling body, or unless changed by the appeal procedure outlined in **BCLA Appeal Policy – Appendix A.**
4. A ruling by a one-man Commission, on matters which are within the authority and responsibility of said Commission, shall be as binding as if made by any other committee, Commission or Directorate having authority, and shall be subject only to the appeal procedure set out in **BCLA Appeal Policy – Appendix A.**

**Rationale:** Consistency with voting (using the wording of Ordinary Resolution)

Allowing changes in policy at a General Meeting, not just Annual General Meeting

Bylaw XI has nothing to do with appeals. Appeals are managed by the BCLA Appeal Policy – Appendix A.

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*Proposed by Gerry Van Beek, BCLA President*

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#### **BY-LAW NUMBER XVIII: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – currently reads:**

1. The prime employee of the Association ~~in accordance with By-Law VIII, Section 5~~, shall be the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall be a full time employee of the Association who will be responsible to the Vice President - Administration and Finance for the routine, day to day business of the Association, in accordance with a contract drawn up by the Executive of the Association.

#### **Amend BY-LAW NUMBER XVIII: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR that would read:**

1. The prime employee of the Association, shall be the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall be a full time employee of the Association who will be responsible to the Vice President - Administration and Finance for the routine, day to day business of the Association, in accordance with a contract drawn up by the Executive of the Association.

**Rationale:** Remove References to By-Law VIII where it has no meaning. Bylaw VIII refers to the BCLA Registrar and it has nothing to do with these two items, and it causes confusion. I was unable to determine what used to be Bylaw VIII.

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*Proposed by Gerry Van Beek, BCLA President*

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#### **REMOVE BY-LAW NUMBER XIX: HONOURARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS that currently reads:**

- ~~1. An Honourary Board of Directors shall act as a supportive body to special projects undertaken by the Association.~~
- ~~2. The Honourary Board shall be a non-voting body made up of individuals deemed by the Executive to have contributed significantly to the advancement of lacrosse or philosophy of the Association.~~
- ~~3. Up to two individuals can be added to the Honourary Board by special appointment of the Association Executive each year.~~

**Rationale:** There is no such thing, and this article should be eliminated.

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*Proposed by Gerry Van Beek, BCLA President*

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#### **BY-LAW NUMBER XXI: AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS – currently reads:**

1. Amendments or alterations to the Constitution or any of the By-Laws of this Association may be made at any Annual Meeting or Special meeting of the Association, but only by a Special resolution.
2. ~~No such amendments shall be made unless carried by a vote of three fourths of the members voting at an Annual Meeting or Special Meeting.~~
3. Notice of any proposed amendment or alteration shall be given in writing to the British Columbia Lacrosse Association Office at least forty-five days prior to the date of the meeting at which such amendment is to be submitted and the proposed amendments or alterations shall be circulated to all members thirty days prior to

the meeting; provided that such notice may be waived or reduced by those members by unanimous consent in writing.

**Amend BY-LAW NUMBER XXI: AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS that would read:**

1. Amendments or alterations to the Constitution or any of the By-Laws of this Association may be made at any Annual Meeting or Special meeting of the Association, but only by a Special resolution.
2. Notice of any proposed amendment or alteration shall be given in writing to the British Columbia Lacrosse Association Office at least forty-five days prior to the date of the meeting at which such amendment is to be submitted and the proposed amendments or alterations shall be circulated to all members thirty days prior to the meeting; provided that such notice may be waived or reduced by those members by unanimous consent in writing.

**Rationale:** These two items are contradictory in their threshold. One of them must be removed.

Three-fourths is too high a threshold for proper functioning and should only be used for items of drastic changes or expulsion of members.

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